

MINUTES

**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG RANGE PLANNING

Call to Order: By **VICE CHAIRMAN JON TESTER**, on February 11, 2005
at 8:00 A.M., in Room 350 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Jon Tester, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Ralph L. Lenhart (D)
Rep. John E. Witt (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Jack Wells, Chairman (R)

Members Absent: Sen. John Brueggeman (R)
Sen. Mike Cooney (D)
Rep. Carol C. Juneau (D)
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)

Staff Present: Catherine Duncan, Legislative Branch
Laura Dillon, Committee Secretary
Mike Burke, OBPP

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 9, 2/11/2005
Executive Action:

Reference book is: Governor's Budget State of Montana, Fiscal Years 2006-2007, Cultural and Aesthetic Grants Program (CAGP), Volume 8.

SEN. TESTER called the meeting to order and began hearing HB 9, Cultural and Aesthetic Grants, Projects.

Northwest Montana Historical Society, #1174

Proponents' Testimony:

REP. BERNIE OLSON, HD 10, described the history of the museum and its exhibits. The museum highlights the local history of the region. The museum offers free student admission and a public lecture series. The museum is also utilized as a community center. The museum operates entirely through donations. The requested grant amount will help defray some of the operation costs.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. TESTER asked why the applicant's grant history was not listed if they had been previously funded.

Kristin Han Burgoyne, Montana Arts Council, replied that the history consisted of a grant that was currently being utilized.

Chantilly Players, #1114

Proponents' Testimony:

Margi Leininger, Chantilly Theater, Stevensville, stated that the funding requested will assist the theater in hiring an executive director. The theater is a positive influence on economic development and draws visitors from out of town.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. TESTER asked for the number of productions per year.

Ms. Leininger answered that the theater produces six adult shows and one children's show per year.

SEN. TESTER asked if the public was able to participate in the productions.

Ms. Leininger replied that anyone within the community may take part in some aspect of the production.

REP. LENHART asked if the executive director's position will be chosen from among the theater volunteers.

Ms. Leininger responded that the position is open to applications, but the person hired will probably have a background in some facet of theater.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 11}

Schoolhouse History and Art Center, #1176

Proponents' Testimony:

Sue Neiman, Executive Director, Schoolhouse History and Art Center, described the project. The center houses an art gallery and history center, and is available for local artist performances. The grant requested will fund their Open to Arts Program as well as a part time director and associated supplies.

EXHIBIT(j1h34a01)

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 11 - 21.8}

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. LENHART asked if all the art teachers were volunteers.

Ms. Neiman replied that part of the grant goes to fund the salary for one part-time teacher.

Museum of the Rockies, #1172

Proponents' Testimony:

Sheldon McKamey, Director, Museum of the Rockies, explained that this grant request was for operational support to allow free museum admission to Montana children. The number of children visiting the museum has been slowly declining over the years and the museum staff believes this is due to rising admission costs. The museum is in the process of opening a science exhibit for middle school students. They have also solicited donations to assist schools with travel costs.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. TESTER asked if there was a change in the total number of admissions during the time when children's admissions were in decline.

Ms. McKamey stated that total admissions have remained constant.

SEN. TESTER asked what kind of marketing effort the museum has put forth.

Ms. McKamey replied that the museum has kept its marketing approach relatively consistent.

SEN. TESTER asked if the proposed construction additions to the museum would interfere with attendance.

Ms. McKamey responded that the museum will remain fully open during renovation.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 21.8 - 28.5}

Sunburst Community Foundation, #1178

Proponents' Testimony:

Rita Collins, Arts and Education Director, Sunburst Community Foundation, cited human services, arts and education as the main focus of this community-based organization. Ms. Collins described some of the programs offered through the foundation. These include a local cookbook, mural projects, and music and art festivals. The outreach of the foundation is expanding and a greater amount of funding is needed.

EXHIBIT (j1h34a02)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. TESTER asked if the individuals who supplied recipes for the cookbook supported the project.

Ms. Collins replied that local businesses generated financial support for the cookbook project.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 7.8}

Vigilante Theater Company, #1179**Proponents' Testimony:**

John Hosking, Vigilante Theater Company, told the committee that the amount requested would fund only three percent of the company's operational budget. The theater company tours year-round and produces around 100 shows per year. The company's mission is to bring theater to all Montana towns, regardless of the population.

EXHIBIT(j1h34a03)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Myrna Loy Center, #1173**Proponents' Testimony:**

Seth Hanser, Myrna Loy Center, explained that the center specializes in roadhouse theater and media arts. Annual productions include local, regional and national acts. The center is home to nationally recognized theater and is affiliated with the Alberta Bair Theater of Billings. The center also offers media arts educational classes. The funding for this project will address operational costs.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 7.8 - 23.7}

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

SEN. TESTER asked if all acts from the Alberta Bair Theater were performed at the Myrna Loy Center.

Mr. Hanser replied that the theater chooses to show Alberta Bair acts depending on the size and availability of scheduling.

Western Heritage Center, #1181**Proponents' Testimony:**

Kevin Kooistra-Manning, Western Heritage Center, discussed the history of the museum center. The museum offers changing exhibits that focus on education. The center was the only venue in Montana chosen to exhibit one of the original copies of the Declaration

of Independence. The museum is able to borrow exhibits on a rotating basis from the National Smithsonian Museums. They are asking for a grant to address costs associated with expanding programs and staff.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 6.4}

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Whitefish Theater Company, #1182

Proponents' Testimony:

Gail Cleveland, Volunteer, Whitefish Theater Company, explained this grant request for operational support. The theater hosts eight multicultural and chamber music events, and three professional theater shows per year. The theater is increasing in popularity and they are trying to expand their program to include more educational and community outreach events. Local elementary students commonly attend the theater performances.

EXHIBIT(jlh34a04)

SEN. DAN WEINBERG, SD 2, stated his support for the project.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 6.4 - 19.8}

{CHAIRMAN WELLS entered the meeting at 9:20 A.M.}

Writer's Voice, Billings YMCA, #1183

Proponents' Testimony:

Corby Skinner, Director, Writer's Voice, explained that Writer's Voice is part of the YMCA Arts and Humanities Program. The Billings program has received supplemental grants for their Native American program. The program is coordinated with local schools and the High Plains Book Festival. Mr. Skinner read and submitted for the record statements of project support.

EXHIBIT(jlh34a05)

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 19.8 - 26.9}

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

CHAIRMAN WELLS asked what kinds of literary publications were promoted by the program.

Mr. Skinner replied that the program is primarily limited to written compositions, but has expanded to occasionally include some other art disciplines.

Billings Cultural Partners, #1144

Proponents' Testimony:

Mr. Skinner also presented the Billings Cultural Partners Project. The association focuses on collaborating history, music and theater projects. The funding requested is to match National Endowment for the Arts dollars for the purpose of marketing. A focus group will be formed to identify the most efficient marketing techniques.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

CHAIRMAN WELLS asked for an explanation of the project title listed in the budget reference.

Mr. Skinner responded that the project was entitled "One Million by 2010" in reference to the number of people they hope to reach.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 4.7}

Yellowstone Art Museum, #1184

Proponents' Testimony:

Robert Knight, Executive Director, Yellowstone Art Museum, stated that the grant requested would be used for museum operational support. He discussed and submitted for the record a book highlighting the past year's activities. The committee was given the opportunity to view the marketing video, which was produced as part of the museum's 40 year celebration.

EXHIBIT (j1h34a06)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 4.7 - 18.1}

Madison Valley Library, #1186

Proponents' Testimony:

REP. DIANE RICE, HD 71, went on record in support of this library expansion project.

Mary Oliver, First Madison Valley Bank, Ennis, explained that the proposed addition would house a 400 square foot Montana Heritage Room. This room would showcase state and local history resources.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 18.1 - 25}

Lucyann Ennis, Project Fundraising Committee, explained the new structure layout. Total cost of the plan is \$500,000. Phase One of the construction is expected to begin this year.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. LENHART asked if the project was an addition or remodel of the existing library building.

Ms. Ennis replied that the project included an addition and remodel. The funding request only applies to the addition.

CHAIRMAN WELLS commented that the project included renovations to a historic building. He asked if the fundraising committee had discussed this part of the project with the Montana Historical Society.

Ms. Ennis responded that the committee expects to speak with the Montana Historical Society soon to determine whether they would like to utilize the building.

CHAIRMAN WELLS asked how much funding support had been received by the project so far.

Ms. Ennis replied that they had raised \$203,000 in private donations for the project.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 25 - 29.8}

Federation of Fly Fishers, #1152

Proponents' Testimony:

Bob Wiltshire, Chief Operating Officer, Federation of Fly Fishers, stated that the grant request will fund operational support for the federation's museum and interpretive center located in Livingston. The center includes painting, sculpture and other artwork as well as thousands of flies and historical artifacts. Museum promotion, marketing and staffing will be addressed through this grant.

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

CHAIRMAN WELLS asked where the facility was located in Livingston.

Mr. Wiltshire replied that the center was in the old Lincoln School Building.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 7.2}

Liberty Village Arts Center, #1188

Proponents' Testimony:

Phil Aaberg, Liberty Village Arts Center, explained that funding was being requested to cover renovation costs. He showed a short video that included citizen comments and feedback regarding the center. The center is a driving force for tourism and economic development in Chester and receives a great deal of community support. The proposed renovation will double the space of the center and address structural inefficiencies.

EXHIBIT(j1h34a07)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

CHAIRMAN WELLS asked how the basement flooding issues would be addressed.

Mr. Aaberg replied that much of the flooding was because of the lack of water restrictions within the Town of Chester. The town now has the proper restrictions in place and he feels renovating

the basement underfill will be sufficient enough to address the problem.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 7.2 - 18.3}

Saint Labre Indian School, #1190

Proponents' Testimony:

Curtis Yarlott, Executive Director, Saint Labre Indian School, explained that funding was needed to address building inefficiencies at the current museum facility. The existing building does not allow for proper fire protection and exhibit storage. The grant request will cover consulting fees and the costs of equipment and inventory.

EXHIBIT(jlh34a08)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 18.3 - 28}

Billings Symphony Society, #1145

Proponents' Testimony:

Rina Reynolds, Project Director, Billings Symphony Society, said project funding will go to address educational and cultural outreach. The society would like to be able to focus their outreach more in rural communities. The symphony offers free concerts as part of community outreach and has purchased an outdoor performance shell to enable concerts at any location. The funding amount recommended for this project is lower than previous years. Ms. Reynolds encouraged the committee to appropriate additional funding to this project if possible.

EXHIBIT(jlh34a09)

Opponents' Testimony: none.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: none.

Seeing no additional projects, **CHAIRMAN WELLS** adjourned the meeting.

{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 10.1}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:10 A.M.

REP. JACK WELLS, Chairman

LAURA DILLON, Secretary

JW/ld

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([jlh34aad0.PDF](#))